Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, line 11 through line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In addition systems that monitor the direct output of the laser often have an increased optical path length between the laser diode and the transmission medium since an intensity detector cannot be placed between the laser and the optical fiber without significantly degrading the amount of light impinging upon the fiber. However, optoelectronic transmitters typically transmit a Gaussian beam whose beamwidth increases with distance from the transmitting device. Therefore, the ~~beamdwidth~~ beamwidth of the divergent beam incident upon the transmission medium may be significantly greater for front monitor systems as compared to rear monitor systems, thus decreasing the efficiency of transmission for front monitor systems.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 30 through page 12, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Therefore, in some embodiments the light receiving facet of the edge illumination photodetector 220 is swept to more efficiently refract the incident beam into the active region of the photodetector as illustrated in the schematic diagram of FIG. 4. In one embodiment the light receiving facet may be swept at an angle [[(β)]](α) in the range of about 43-47 degrees from the flat TO Header. However, one of skill in the art will appreciate that the sweep angle of the light receiving facet of the photodetector may vary as a function of the material composition of the photodetector, the far field transmit angles of the laser diode or the like. Therefore the disclosed sweep angle is by way of illustration only and not by way of limitation.